

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for reducing effect of a fructosyl lysine compound in assay of a glycated protein contained in a glycated protein-containing sample, ~~characterized by the method~~ comprising treating the sample with a protease to ~~thereby~~ release free fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine ~~peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~,

~~causing reacting~~ an enzyme for assaying fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid to act specifically on~~ with the released ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~ fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 to produce a product, [[and]]

measuring the ~~resultant~~ product of the reacting at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0; and

correlating the measuring of the product to the presence or level of glycated protein in the sample.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein the glycated protein is a glycated hemoglobin.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~claim~~ claims 2 or 3, wherein the protease is ~~derived~~ from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Bacillus*, *Aspergillus*, or *Streptomyces*, or is obtained from a gene of the microorganism through a gene recombination technology.

Claims 5 and 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 2, wherein the enzyme for assaying ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~ fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine is a fructosyl peptide oxidase.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 2, wherein the product is hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A reagent for assaying glycated protein with reduced effect of a fructosyl lysine compound, which ~~contains~~ comprises at least (A) a protease, (B) an oxidase which specifically acts on ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~ fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 to thereby produce hydrogen peroxide, and (C) a reagent for measuring hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for reducing effect of a fructosyl lysine compound in assay of fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine in a sample ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~, characterized by the method comprising causing at least the following (A) to (C) to act on ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~ free fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 after the sample has been reacted with a protease to release free fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine; and correlating a product resulting from the action of (A) to (C) to the presence of absence of fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine in the sample:

(A) an enzyme for assaying fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~,

- (B) a reagent for measuring hydrogen peroxide, and
- (C) a glucosone-oxidizing and decomposing enzyme.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method for reducing effect of a fructosyl lysine compound in assay of glycated protein contained in a sample, ~~characterized by the method~~ comprising treating the sample with a protease to thereby release ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~ fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine, and causing at least the following (A) to (C) to act on the released ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~ fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 and correlating a product resulting from the action of (A) to (C) to the presence of absence of a glycated protein in the sample:

- (A) an enzyme for assaying fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine,
- (B) a reagent for measuring hydrogen peroxide, and
- (C) a glucosone-oxidizing and decomposing enzyme.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein the glycated protein is a glycated hemoglobin.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~claim~~ claims 11 or 12, wherein the protease is ~~derived~~ from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Bacillus*, *Aspergillus*, or *Streptomyces*, or is obtained from a gene of the microorganism through a gene recombination technology.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 10 to~~  
~~15~~claims 10 or 11, wherein the enzyme for assaying ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~  
fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine is a fructosyl peptide oxidase.